Boards a failure, Government intend to handover this work to the private sector; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

State Electricity Boards are under the administrative control of respective State Government. The Electricity Act, 2003 has provisions only for reorganization of the State Electricity Boards. Any decision to privatize the electricity business is entirely upto the concerned State Government.

Abduction of Hindu girls

†*98. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that minority Hindu girls of Sindh province of Pakistan are abducted and are forcibly being married to Muslim Youth after their conversion;

(b) if so, whether Government are holding any talks with the Government of Pakistan in this regard;

(c) whether Government have come across recent press reports in this regard; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) Government is aware of the reports and intends to take up the matter with Pakistan in the next round of India-Pakistan talks.

Security to Indians working in Afghanistan

*99. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what kind of security the Government of Afghanistan is providing to the citizens of India working in Afghanistan;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether it is a fact that abductions and killings of Indians in Afghanistan and other countries are on the rise in the recent past;

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking in this regard;

(d) whether it is a fact that recently, an Indian from Kerala was killed by Talibans; and

(e) if so, what steps Government have taken through diplomatic and political channels to put pressure on the Government of Afghanistan for providing more security to the Indians working there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Government of Afghanistan has deployed local police guards at the sities of Indian projects in Afghanistan. In addition, as and when required, additional security forces are provided for Indian citizens.

(b) There was one case of abduction and killing of an Indian national in Afghanistan in November, 2005. Another Indian national was among the four persons, of whom three were foreign nationals, who were killed in a car explosion in Februrary, 2006.

(c) Government of India, through its Embassy in Kabul, has issued a security advisory containing guidelines for Indians working in Afghanistan. In cases of specific perception of threat, the local Government is approached to provide security.

(d) The Afghan media had reported that the Taliban had claimed responsibility for the recent killing of an Indian from Kerala in November 2005, (mentioned above).

(e) Government of India is in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan, at various levels, and has taken up the subject of security of the Indians working in Afghanistan.

Indo-Bangladesh relations

*100. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indo-Bangladesh relations have deteriorated, recently;

(b) if so, the detials thereof and the reasons therefor; and